



## **PUBLIC MEETING**

**State Route 32 (U.S. Highway 321) Improvements  
State Route 73 in Cosby to Wilton Springs Road,  
Cosby, Cocke County, Tennessee**

### **Corridor Improvement Project**

**March 15, 2012**

**5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M.**

**Cosby High School**

**3318 Cosby Highway**

**Cosby, Tennessee 37722**

Between 1998 and the present TDOT has evaluated alternatives to improve SR 32 (US 321). Alternatives have been modified in response to public and resource agency input, and environmental constraints.

The most recent alternative modification are presented at this meeting.

**Contact: Jonna Leigh Stack  
TDOT NEPA Project Manager  
(615) 741-3655  
[Jonnaleigh.stack@tn.gov](mailto:Jonnaleigh.stack@tn.gov)**

# WELCOME!

Thank you for attending the public meeting for State Route 32 (SR 32) (U.S. Highway 321 (US 321)) Improvements Environmental Assessment (EA). This handout package provides information on the public meeting format as well as a summary of the project purpose and need, a description of the project's design features, potential environmental impacts of the project, and the next steps in the project development process. It also explains how to provide the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) your comments.

Below is the agenda for this evening.

**5:30 – 6:00 PM** – View displays and talk with TDOT Project Team

**6:00 – 6:30 PM** – Presentation to provide updated information on the Proposed SR 32 (US 321) Improvement Project including recent modifications based on stakeholder input

**6:30 – 7:30 PM** – View displays and talk with TDOT Project Team

During the first 30 minutes of the meeting, you will be able to view displays illustrating the alternative that is being evaluated in the SR 32 (US 321) Environmental Assessment (EA). After you sign in and receive the project handout, you are encouraged to view the displays and speak with representatives from the TDOT Project Team.

At 6:00 PM, the project presentation with update information will begin. Following the presentation, there is a Comment/Question Session. In the interest of time, TDOT Project Team members will provide a brief response to your question or comment.

If you would like a more in-depth response than time offers during the Comment/Question Session, or want to discuss a topic, please talk with a Project Team member either before the formal Comment/Question Session, or after the Session with TDOT Project Team members will again be available to talk with you individually.

The public meeting will conclude at 7:30 PM.



SR 32 (US 321)

## WHY ARE WE HERE TONIGHT?

TDOT is currently proceeding with the EA process for this project. The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with an update on the project and gather public input on the proposed project alternatives currently under study.

## PARTICIPATE IN THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS

You will have several opportunities to make known your comments about both projects and have them included in the official transcript:

- A court reporter will record the meeting's formal Comment/Question session and will be available during the entire public meeting to record your individual oral comments.
- A comment form is included in this handout for your use. You may deposit your completed form in the box by the door before you leave the public meeting or you may submit written comments to:

Project Comments  
Tennessee Department of  
Transportation  
Suite 700, James K. Polk Building  
505 Deaderick Street  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243

Or by email to:  
[TDOT.Comments@tn.gov](mailto:TDOT.Comments@tn.gov)

\* Written comments must be postmarked no later than **April 5, 2012** (include your name and address) in order to be included in the official transcript of this public meeting.

TDOT is an EEO/Affirmative Action Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, sex, religion, color, disability, or national origin.

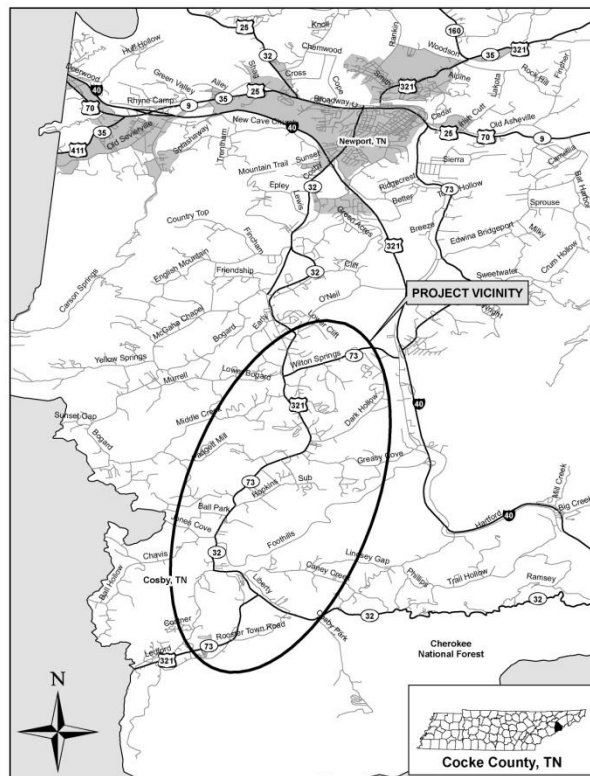


## SR-32 (US-321) PROJECT DESCRIPTION

TDOT proposes to widen SR-32 (US-321) from SR-73 in Cosby to Wilton Springs Road in Cocke County, Tennessee. The proposed project would widen the existing two-lane roadway to four lanes. The total project length is approximately 6.5 miles.

Two typical sections would be utilized. From SR-73 to just north of Orchard Road, the proposed project will widen SR-32 to a four-lane roadway divided by a 48-foot median with 12 foot shoulders. From just north of Orchard Road to Wilton Springs Road, the proposed project will widen SR-32 to four 12-foot lanes with a continuous 12-foot center turn lane with 8-foot shoulders. Some of the improvements would occur on new location.

The proposed project would also cross the Foothills Parkway, which is administered by the National Park Service (NPS). As currently proposed, the project would cross the Foothills Parkway east of the existing SR-32/Foothills Parkway intersection, on NPS land, and would result in the realignment of the current Foothills Parkway in this area.



# SR 32 (US 321)

## **WHY DOES THE PROJECT HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS?**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires that projects receiving federal funding or requiring federal actions (e.g. permits) undergo an environmental review process.

The project cannot proceed until this requirement has been successfully completed.

## **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT?**

The purpose of the proposed project is to:

- Fulfill NEPA requirements;
- Disclose effects of the project at a stage in the development process where decision making can still be shaped by the environmental analysis and by the comments of agency and public reviewers.

## **WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT?**

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is prepared if it is unknown whether or not a project has the potential to significantly impact environmental resources. If the EA identifies potential significant impacts then an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be prepared. Issues that must be addressed in the EA documents are:

Noise

Air Quality

Historic and Archaeological  
Resources

Traffic and Safety

Resources

Floodplains

Hazardous Materials Sites

Soils and Geology

Land Use

Social and Community Impacts

Economic and Business Impacts

Environmental Justice

Farmland

Visual Impacts

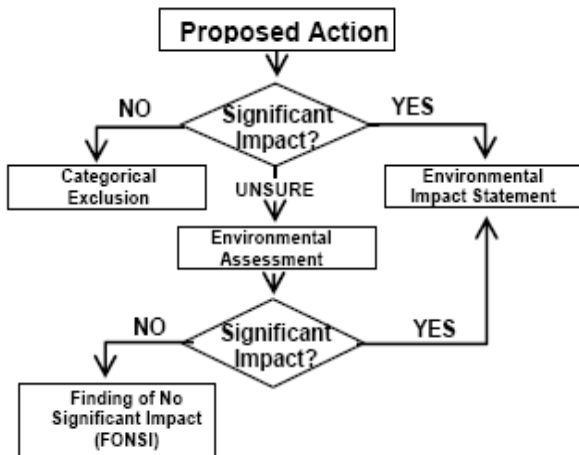
Parks and Recreational Resources

Section 4(f) and Section 6(f)  
Resources

Pedestrian and Bicycle  
Considerations

Construction Impacts

The major differences between an EA and an EIS are the level of detail, required study alternatives, and the procedural process.



## WHAT ALTERNATIVES MUST BE STUDIED IN AN EA?

Alternatives that will be studied in an EA include:

- No-Build Alternative
- Build Alternative

### No-Build Alternative

The No-Build Alternative:

- Examines what would happen if the new roadway was not constructed; and
- Serves as a baseline to compare the Build Alternative against.

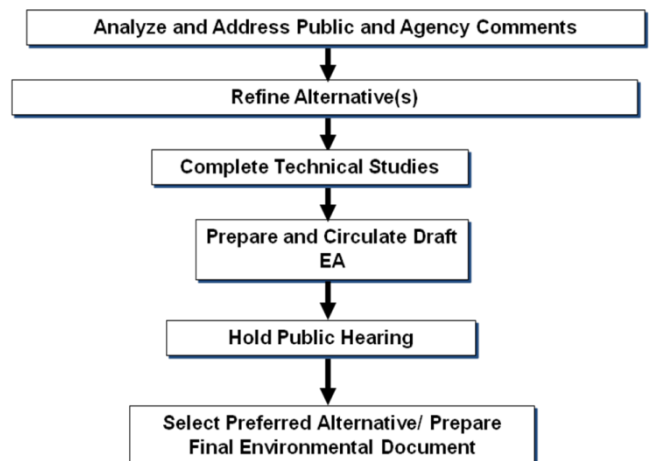
### Build Alternative

The Build Alternative would widen SR 32 (US 321) between SR 73 in Cosby and Wilton Springs Road.

TDOT representatives are here tonight to listen to what you have to say about the purpose and need and the project alternatives.

## WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

The information that you provide will be used to further refine the purpose and need statement and the alternative(s) to be studied for the project.



## WHEN WILL THE NEXT PUBLIC MEETING BE HELD?

A public hearing will be held once the EA has been approved and circulated to the public and federal, state, and local agencies.